

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CEDAR BLUFF
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

DEMARIS CHURCH, LAWRENCE, ALA.,

SEPTEMBER 24th, 25th and 26th, 1897.



OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Elder M. A. CORNELIAS,	-	-	-	Moderator.
JOHN C. HIGH,	-	-	-	Clerk.



COLLINSVILLE, ALA.

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1897.



MINUTES.

THE CEDAR BLUFF BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with Demaris church, Lawrence, Ala., on Friday, September 24th, 1897, at 11 o'clock. The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. N. Webb. Text—

EVENING SESSION.

At 2 o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator reading 91st Psalm. Prayer by Bro. A. E. Burns. The churches were called and the Messengers enrolled as follows:

BETHLEHEM—P. C. Copeland, J. A. C. Sims.

CEDAR BLUFF—I. A. Ellis, G. G. Lawrence, J. S. Watt, W. F. Wilder.

DEMARIS—H. Stone, M. H. Sutherlin, D. A. Tucker, J. N. Hurtt.

FARILL—J. C. Nixon, G. B. Almand, G. M. Adams, W. G. Neal.

FAIR HEAVEN—J. A. Chandler, J. D. Watkins.

LITTLE RIVER—John Webb, A. J. Bishop.

LEESBURG—W. G. Brown, Bro. Cornelias.

MILL CREEK—W. H. Helms, T. B. Miller, J. C. High.

MT. BETHEL—J. N. Webb, H. T. Leath, T. W. Rinehart, W. L. Little.

PLEASANT VALLEY—S. M. Ray, I. B. Parker.

ROCK HILL—O. A. Gardner, J. H. Weaver, R. F. M. Vernon.

SHADY GROVE—J. W. Sheppard, D. W. Thornton, W. A. Whitworth.

UNION—M. N. Sewel, W. M. Hicks, T. L. Wagon, W. D. Thornton.

ROUND MOUNTAIN—J. M. Chancellor, R. G. Harton.

UNITY—J. W. Hurley.

YELLOW CREEK—E. L. Hale, J. L. Hase.

The election of officers resulted in Eld. M. A. Cornelias being chosen as Moderator and J. C. High, Clerk, for the ensuing year.

The Moderator gave an opportunity for the reception of new churches.

Invited visiting brethren of our faith and order. Called for correspondence. Recognized Bro. Robards and Elder J. R. Ramsey from the Cherokee Association, and Bro. A. E. Burns as a representative of the State Board of Missions.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:

On Divine Service—H. Stone, W. H. Helms, J. W. Sheppard.

On Finance—I. A. Ellis, G. B. Almand, R. G. Harton.

On State of Religion—Thos. Rinehart, J. I. Watkins, J. H. Weaver.

On Religious Literature—J. M. Chancellor, J. C. Nixon, J. W. Hurley.

On Deceased Ministers—M. N. Sewel, D. W. Thornton, W. G. Brown.

On Preaching Appointments—D. A. Tucker, LaFayette Webb, J. N. Hurtt.

On Delegates to Conventions—P. C. Copeland, W. M. Hicks, John Webb.

Adjourned until 8:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1897.

The Association met according to previous appointment. The services were introduced by the Moderator reading 34 Psalm. Prayer by Elder J. N. Webb. Minutes of yesterday read and approved. Report on Education read and adopted. On motion the report on Missions was postponed till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. Report on Temperance read, discussed by Brethren Leath, Burgess and others, the report was then adopted. On motion it was agreed to proceed with the business of the Association and not have preaching at 11 o'clock. Report on State of Religion read and adopted. The body recognized Bro. L. Glazener and Bro. Burges from the Cherokee Association, and Bro. J. N. Rush from the Chattooga Association.

Adjourned to meet at 1:30 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 o'clock the body was called to order by the Moderator. Scripture lesson 23rd Psalm. Prayer by Bro. Battles. By motion the Clerk is to retain \$2.80 balance of minute money carried over from last year. The committee on Sabbath Schools read their report which was adopted as read, after being discussed by Bros. Burns, Ramsey and others. Report on Religious Literature read and adopted. Report on Finance read and adopted. Report on Deceased Ministers read and adopted. At the request of the committee the Association joined in prayer to God for sparing the lives of all ministers of our Association.

Report on Preaching Appointments for next session read and adopted.

Suspended the regular order of business to select the time and place of holding the next meeting of the Association, which will be Friday before the fourth Lord's day in September, 1898, with Little River church.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 26, 1897.

At 9 o'clock the Moderator called the Association to order, then read 19 Psalm. The report on Missions was read and discussed by Webb and others. The report was then adopted as read. Adjourned till 1:30 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

At 1:30 o'clock the Association proceeded with business. The Moderator appointed standing committees as follows:

On Temperance—J. N. Webb; on Missions—H. T. Leath; on Education—L. B. Cornelias; on Sabbath Schools—V. A. Bell.

The Association then fixed the place of holding fifth Sunday meetings: The first to be held with Farill church; the second with Round Mountain church; the third with Pleasant

Valley church; the fourth with Fair Heaven church. On motion each church was to be allowed to appoint a committee on program for its own meeting.

On motion the present Executive Committee was retained for the ensuing year. Committee: A. B. Griffith, G. M. Ball, R. S. Dean and W. F. Wilder.

Correspondents to the Cherokee County Association: D. W. Thornton and H. T. Leath; to the Cherokee Association: J. N. Webb, J. A. C. Sims, P. C. Copeland, E. Hale and R. G. Harton; to the Chattooga Association: H. T. Leath, Bro. Ray and Thos. Rinehart; to the Etowah Association: V. A. Bell.

RESOLVED, That we tender our thanks to Demaris church and the community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay in their midst.

Adjourned to meet with Little River church on Friday before the fourth Lord's day in September, 1898.

M. A. CORNELIAS, Moderator.

JOHN C. HIGH, Clerk.



DECEASED MINISTERS.

We your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We find that the Lord has spared all the lives of our ministering brethren through another associational year. We would recommend that this body suspend the regular order of business and engage in prayer to God for his goodness, mercy and love in keeping all his ministering servants through another year. Respectfully submitted,

M. N. SEWEL. W. G. BROWN. D. W. THORNTON.

STATE OF RELIGION.

This is a subject that has not, we think, received the consideration that the gravity of the subject demands. Some of our churches that have had energy, piety and love for the Master's cause enough to maintain Sunday Schools and prayer meetings have been blessed with gracious revivals, while others that have not so laid their hands to the work have had the anguish of soul to see many of their friends, neighbors and children plodding the downward road to ruin and death. It seems to your committee that while the world is growing worse and worse, more steeped in sin and iniquity, that the churches are becoming lukewarm and neglectful in our Lord's cause. Let us ask ourselves the question, are we retrograding or are we advancing? We are exhibiting to the world our pride instead of our piety. The much abused and over worked preachers are expected to keep the banners of King Emanuel from trailing in the dust, while we, the laity are to an alarming extent reveling in fashion and amusements of the day. Out of the church house it is hard very often to distinguish between a church member and a non-professor. These things ought not so to be.

Respectfully submitted, J. H. WEAVER.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we fear parents are not as careful about the literature their children read as they ought to be. We believe it the duty of every household to be furnished by their heads with the purest and safest literature. Of all the books, the Bible should have the preference. It is the book of books, not only to be read but studied. "Search the scriptures" said our great head. We recommend our Sunday School lesson helps. As to religious papers we first recommend the Alabama Baptist; second the Foreign, State and Home Mission Journals; third the Baptist Helper and Texas Baptist Standard. Respectfully submitted, J. C. NIXON.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee, find from the various letters sent to the Association but little increase in Sabbath School work. Some of the churches which reported no schools last year report schools this year. We recommend to the various messengers composing this Association the greater need for Sabbath Schools now than ever before, because so much doctrine and false teaching is being insidiously promulgated at every opportunity offered. Since we are and always have been a peculiar people it becomes of great importance to us what doctrines are taught and what is the character of the teachers. We know of no greater error or mistake that could be made than the custom of appointing for teachers the unconverted and worldly man or woman. We would suggest to every church the importance of seeing that no such mistake is made. While we recognize the great assistance given by Lesson Helps, we would not recognize any book or books of more importance than the Bible for the dissimination of truth and knowledge, holding to the principle that no knowledge can be imparted of a spiritual nature that is not spiritually discerned. See that your superintendent and all teachers are converted persons, for without this no one is qualified to impart that knowledge of which he is entirely ignorant, regardless of his business qualifications or his standing in society. To the teacher or superintendent who does not meet with all the success they would expect we would encourage with the promise, "Ye shall reap if ye faint not." Respectfully submitted, J. S. WATT.

TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is a subject of tremendous import, when we consider the blight curse of intemperance as it stalks abroad in our land blasting the fair fruits of peace, love and happiness, making desolate thousands of happy homes, dragging down to a premature and disgraceful grave its tens of thousands of our people, and not only to a disgraceful grave but to an endless hell. When we think of our whole government from our county courts to our general government in every department, legislative, judicial and executive being nearly, if not completely in grasp of the whiskey demon, we shrink almost involuntarily from the task of writing a report that would on a small scale serve as a break water against the on rushing tide of intemperance that sweeps over land. Yet with the odds against us, let us make reports in favor of temperance and live them at home; let us pass resolutions and then burn them into our own hearts and the hearts of our children, then the much desired reform in church and state will come, if we vote as we pray. In the language of M. S. Kerby, "If to license the liquor traffic is a sin against God and a crime against humanity, how can a christian vote for a party which license it." Brethren consider this question. Is it right for a christian to support a party which license liquor traffic and decide before God what will you do. I can conscientiously vote for a party pledged to destroy this blighter of our homes and destroyer of peace, order and happiness, but never for one which license and promotes it. But listen you vote no license today and then next election you vote for a party whose policy is to license the traffic. Are you not inconsistent? You vote local option or prohibition and then support the political party which foster the liquor traffic for the sake of the revenue—blood money. Consistency thou art a jewel.

Respectfully submitted,

H. T. LEATH.

PREACHING APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT SESSION.

We submit the following: Introductory sermon, O. A. Gardner; alternate, V. A. Bell; Missionary sermon, J. N. Webb; alternate, M. A. Cornelias. Respectfully submitted,

D. A. TUCKER.

MISSIONS.

We, your committee, submit the following report: We regret being unable to give a full statement of our Mission work.

Our Mission work is extending over portions of China, Africa, Italy, Brazil and Mexico, and besides these there are many other places being opened for work. In our own land there are many places receiving help by our Missionaries, and many more at home and abroad might receive help if our gifts were enlarged. Preachers are not miraculously fed. Their wants must be supplied. This cannot be done without money. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, but how shall we hear without a preacher and how shall he preach except he be sent." If we do not give of our means we are not Missionaries practically. The way to keep alive at the center is to keep circulation in the extremities. The Apostle's rule for giving is, lay by in store as God has prospered us. This embraces every one of us, rich and poor. Brethren there is a pressing and urgent demand for larger gifts. Respectfully submitted, J. N. WEBB.

EDUCATION.

We suppose that reports are intended to put before the Associations that information and presentation of facts which will set them to proper thinking, and lead to wise and righteous impulses. This your committee does not feel competent to do. The hope of the church is education; we do not mean exclusively the learning at the colleges, but education of the heart, as well as the head; education in the doctrine of the church; education in the Bible; education in the will and power of the Holy Spirit. A spirit filled soul is better than a learning filled head; but both together are better than either alone. Admitting all that can be said in favor of an educated ministry, there is a phase of education which deserve more attention than it usually receives. We refer to the necessity of a better trained membership. If there is need of mental culture for the pulpit, there is need of such culture for the pew; if the preacher should be deeply spiritual and profoundly consecrated the membership should be similarly blessed. We would advise the brethren to be very careful about the literature that comes to their homes for their children to read. See that it is chaste and pure. See to it brethren that you do not take some county paper and refuse to take your church paper. Just here we would state frankly that we believe that if you take just one paper that it ought to be the Alabama Baptist, not that it is better than many other Baptist papers, but because it is our own state paper and because it informs us of what is being done by the Baptist of Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. HIGH.

DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS.

We, your committee, recommend as delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention: Elder H. T. Leath; alternate, Elder M. A. Cornelias; to the State Convention: Elder J. N. Webb; alternate, Elder O. A. Gardner.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. HICKS.

JOHN WEBB.

P. C. COPELAND.

FINANCE.

J. C. High in account with Cedar Bluff Association.

RECEIVED.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
Home Missions.....	\$ 21 25	Home Missions.....	\$ 21 25
State ".....	24 23	State ".....	24 23
Foreign ".....	25 79	Foreign ".....	25 79
Public Collection.....	20 30	Public Collection.....	20 30
Minutes.....	15 42	Vouchers.....	70 05
Vouchers.....	70 05	Minutes.....	15 42
Total...	\$177 04	Total.....	\$177 04

DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.



ARTICLE I. We believe that there are three that bear record in Heaven: The Father, Word and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one, the only living and true God, the Creator and Preserver of all men of the Universe.

II. We believe the Word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed evermore.

III. That all scriptures as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

IV. That the law and testimony as set forth in the Scriptures is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their spiritual concerns, and in their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.

V. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all mankind, fell from his state of original purity, and that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.

VI. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through his unmerited mercy receive regeneration, pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.

VII. That those blessings are communicated by that Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven, so that those who are saved are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of themselves, not of work, lest any man should boast, not by words of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

VIII. That God works all things after the council of His own will; foreknown unto Him are all his works from the beginning, and that of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him and that He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sheep will hear His voice, shall never perish, become dead to the world and to sin, be made alive to God and when He who is their life shall come, appear with Him in Glory.

IX. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ, and maintain good work for necessary uses.

X. That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.

XI. That there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, according to the decision of which, the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.

XII. That God has instituted a church on earth existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one

another in the church relation by the will of God their voluntary consent.

XIII. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and that she has under Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns, of judging of the qualifications of her own members for the office they are to fill, and of choosing her own officers in conformity with the direction of the word of God.

XIV. That the officers of the churches are pastors and deacons only.

XV. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consists in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.

XVI. That the Lord's supper is a standing ordinance in the Church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the suffering and death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF CEDAR BLUFF BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Vouchers for the Boards.	Minutes ..
Bethlehem	\$ 34	\$ 33	\$ 33	\$ 1 00	\$ 70
Cedar Bluff.	4 50	4 50	4 50	12 72	1 50
Demaris	1 29	1 29	1 30	10 16	1 00
Fair Heaven.....	.....	2 03	1 77	5 62	1 50
Farill	2 46	2 25	2 29	3 69	1 25
Little River	75	1 00	1 25	1 75	50
Leesburg. ....	.....	.....	2 82	5 35	75
Mill Creek.....	3 00	3 00	3 00	7 50	80
Mount Bethel...	5 00	2 00	2 50	5 50	70
Pleasant Valley..	1 95	.....	2 75	2 00	75
Rock Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67
Round Mountain.	.....	1 40	1 40	5 40	1 50
Shady Grove....	.....	1 58	.....	4 46	1 05
Union	1 86	1 86	1 88	.....	1 00
Unity.....	2 49	.....	.....	4 90	1 00
Yellow Creek....	80	.....	.....	.....	75
<i>15</i> Total.....	\$24 24	\$21 24	\$25 79	\$70 05	\$15 42

STATISTICS OF CEDAR BLUFF BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.										Preach ^g Sab'th										
SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME.		Pupils	Off. & T'each's	Present Membership.	By Death.	By Exclusion.	By Letter.	By Restor'n.	By Letter.		Membership last reported.									
CHURCH.											COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Total					
Bethlehem	Cherokee.	J A C Sims	L Copeland	Sandrock	23	3	..	4	..	1	9	27	94	5	106	W J Doster	1			
Cedar Bluff. . . .	"	C S Johnson. . . .	I A Ellis. . . .	Cedar Bluff. . .	108	108	81	1	..	1	9	94	9	81	1	2	1			
Demaris.	"	J N Webb.	G W Bishop. . .	Lawrence.	81	2	2	..	1	..	3	74	7	60	7	55	J L Witt			
Farill.	"	V A Bell.	J C Nixon. . . .	Farill.	60	3	1	..	1	..	14	37	14	54	..	..	3	
Fair Heaven . .	"	M A Cornelias. .	J A Chandler. .	Farill.	54	1	..	..	..	..	3	47	4	..	..	..	4
Little River . .	"	J N Webb.	R S Dean. . . .	Loop.	16	1	2	..	2	..	3	18	..	..	..	..	4
Leesburg	"	M A Cornelias. .	G W Brown. . . .	Bristow.	47	2	1	..	..	5	5	11	..	..	..	..	1
Mill Creek . . .	"	J N Webb	W H Helms. . . .	Cedar Springs. .	119	1	1	9	1	1	1	57	..	30	1	J C High	2			
Mount Bethel. .	"	O A Gardner. . .	E L McCoy. . . .	Starkville. . . .	73	4	1	25	1	1	10	136	10	45	4	W L Little	4			
Pleasant Valley	"	J M Henderson. .	J H Weaver. . . .	James town . . .	24	3	1	3	1	3	3	71	..	17	T F McGuire	1	1			
Rock Hill. . . .	"	M A Cornelias. .	J M Chancellor. .	Cedar Springs. .	37	3	3	1	..	1	1	26	..	60	..	..	3	
Round Mount'n	"	W P Whitlow. . .	F M Bishop. . . .	Round Mount'n	143	4	2	3	3	2	2	41	..	..	..	..	3
Shady Grove. .	"	M A Cornelias. .	T L Wagnon . .	Maple Grove . .	131	4	..	5	11	..	12	113	19	..	..	..	3
Union	Etowah.	H W Robards. . .	EL McCalmun. .	Ball Play. . . .	49	1	..	2	..	..	1	128	11	45	EL McCalmun.	1	1	
Unify	Cherokee.	Z T Deberry. . .	J L Hoge	Hurley	68	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	3	..	..	..	3
Yellow Creek. .	"	..	..	Bristow. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

ORDER OF BUSINESS.



1. Read letters from the churches.
2. Election of officers.
3. Reception of new churches.
4. Invite visiting ministers of our faith and order.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Appointment of the following committees, towit:
 1. On Divine.
 2. On Finance.
 3. On Missions.
 4. On Education.
 5. On Sabbath Schools.
 6. On State of Religion.
 7. On Religious Literature.
 8. On Deceased Ministers.
 9. On Delegates to Conventions.
 10. On Preaching Appointments for next session.
7. Report of Committees.
8. General Business.
9. Appoint Correspondence.
10. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
11. Adjournment.